

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT UNIT  
REQUEST FOR LETTERS OF INTEREST**

THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DESIRES TO ENGAGE A QUALIFIED PRIVATE CONSULTING FIRM FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE PREPARATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS AND PRELIMINARY DESIGNS FOR THE PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT OF I-26 (US 19/23) FROM I-240 IN ASHEVILLE TO SR 2148 (**STOCKTON ROAD**) AND REPLACEMENT OF BRIDGES 345 AND 346 ON US 19/23, US 25, AND US 70 OVER SR 1839 (**OLD MARSHALL HIGHWAY**):

The primary and/or subconsultant firm(s) shall be Pre-qualified to perform services for the Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit (Project Development, Natural Environment and Human Environment Sections ( T&E Surveys, NRTR, Wetland and Stream Delineation, Traffic Noise, Air Quality, and Public Involvement), Highway Design (Roadway and Hydraulics Units), and Transportation Mobility & Safety (Congestion Management Section for Arterial, Freeway and Roundabout Analysis, SYNCHRO and CORSIM Analysis) to perform the below referenced work. Work Codes required are:

- 00063 – Environmental Assessments/Findings of No Significant Impacts
- 00005 – Air Quality Analysis
- 000243 – Threatened and Endangered Species Surveys
- 000280 – Wetland and Stream Delineation
- 00253 – Traffic Noise Analysis
- 00201 – Rural Roadway Design
- 00434 – Hydraulic Design Tier II
- 00026 – Capacity Analysis (Arterials)
- 00027 – Capacity Analysis (Freeways)
- 00030 – Capacity Analysis (Roundabouts)
- 00127 – Interchange Modification/Justification Reports
- 00256 – Traffic Simulations Using Advanced Modeling Software
- 00171 - Public Involvement
- 00059 – Ecological and Biotic Community Studies

**NOTE: Pre-qualification within the Congestion Management Section is by specific employee(s).**

TIP Nos. A-0010 and B-4443

Buncombe County

The proposed project is the improvement of I-26 (US 19/23) from I-240 in Asheville to SR 2148 (**Stockton Road**) and replacement of bridges 345 and 346 on US 19/23, US 25, and US 70 over SR 1839 (**Old Marshall Highway**). The facility is proposed as a multi-lane facility on existing and may include new locations.

The length of the project is approximately 15 miles.

## Project Breakdown:

- Section AA ~ I-26, North of I-240 in Asheville to US 25 (8.5 miles)
- Section AB ~ I-26, US 25 to SR 2207 (Mars Hill Highway) (2.5 miles)
- Section AC ~ I-26, from SR 2207 (Mars Hill Highway) to SR 2148 (Stockton Road)
- (3.8 miles)

A-0010 and B-4443 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE: EA – April 2016  
FONSI – April 2017  
R/W – FY 2018 (A-0010AA)  
Let – FY 2020 (A-0010AA)

## SCOPE OF WORK

The project will be processed as an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The project will NOT follow the NEPA/404 merger process. The document will evaluate the potential direct impacts to the human and natural environments of the proposed project. Natural environment work (, T & E Studies, NRTR and Wetland/Stream Delineation) will be conducted for the project. Human environment work will consist of conducting a comprehensive public involvement program, traffic noise analysis, and air quality analysis. Traffic Forecast is NOT included as part of the contract. Corridor Maps and Functional designs will be prepared for all preliminary alternatives considered. Preliminary designs for all the detailed study roadway alternatives and Public Hearing Maps for the preferred alternative are included as part of the contract. Transportation Mobility & Safety services will include capacity analysis of current and future year traffic forecast data. Hydraulic services will include Preliminary Hydraulic Report.

NOTE: Historic architectural, archaeological, Limited English Proficiency services, Community Impact Assessment (CIA), Indirect and Cumulative Effects (ICE) are NOT part of this scope of work. These services will be provided either by in-house staff or current on call contracts managed by Project Development and Environmental Analysis Unit. No surveying, photogrammetric, or geotechnical services are anticipated.

Wetland/ stream delineation files shall be prepared in electronic format. All electronic files shall be in Microstation "wet/wex" file format.

The plans for the roadway and hydraulic design listed above shall be prepared in electronic format. All electronic files shall be in Microstation format using Geopak software.

All services shall be done in accordance with the guidelines and standards for each unit.

Any firm wishing to be considered must be properly registered with the Office of the Secretary of State and with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors. Any firm proposing to use corporate subsidiaries or subcontractors must include a statement that these companies are properly registered with the North Carolina Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors and/or the NC Board for Licensing of Geologists. The Engineers performing the work and in responsible charge of the work must be registered Professional Engineers in the State of North Carolina and must have a good ethical and professional standing. It will be the

responsibility of the selected private firm to verify the registration of any corporate subsidiary or subcontractor prior to submitting a Letter of Interest. The firm must have the financial ability to undertake the work and assume the liability. The selected firm(s) will be required to furnish proof of Professional Liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000. The firm(s) must have an adequate accounting system to identify costs chargeable to the project.

## SMALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE FIRM (SPSF) PARTICIPATION

The Department encourages the use of Small Professional Services Firms (SPSF). Small businesses determined to be eligible for participation in the SPSF program are those meeting size standards defined by Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR Part 121 in Sector 54 under the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS). The SPSF program is a race, ethnicity, and gender neutral program designed to increase the availability of contracting opportunities for small businesses on federal, state or locally funded contracts. SPSF participation is not contingent upon the funding source.

The Firm, at the time the Letter of Interest is submitted, shall submit a listing of all known SPSF firms that will participate in the performance of the identified work. The participation shall be submitted on the Department's Subconsultant Form RS-2. RS-2 forms may be accessed on the website at <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

The SPSF must be qualified with the Department to perform the work for which they are listed.

Real-time information about firms doing business with the Department and firms that are SPSF certified through the Contractual Services Unit is available in the Directory of Transportation Firms. The Directory can be accessed by the link on the Department's homepage or by entering <https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/directory/> in the address bar of your web browser.

The listing of an individual firm in the Department's directory shall not be construed as an endorsement of the firm.

## PREQUALIFICATION

The Department maintains on file the qualifications and key personnel for each approved discipline, as well as any required samples of work. Each year on the anniversary date of the company, the firm shall renew their prequalified disciplines. If your firm has not renewed its application as required by your anniversary date or if your firm is not currently prequalified, please submit an application to the Department **prior** to submittal of your letter of interest. An application may be accessed at <https://apps03.dot.state.nc.us/vendor/prequal>. Having this data on file with the Department eliminates the need to resubmit this data with each letter of interest.

Even though specific DBE/MBE/WBE goals are not required for this project, the Department of Transportation is committed to providing opportunity for small and disadvantaged businesses to perform on its contracts through established Department goals. The Firm,

subconsultant and subfirm shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, age, disability or sex in the performance of this contract.

## EVALUATION

All qualified firms who submit responsive letters of interest will be considered.

The evaluation of firms submitting letters of interest for this project will be based on the following considerations and their respective weights:

1. The evaluation of performance on any previous contracts with the North Carolina Department of Transportation; 40%
2. The firm's experience and staff to perform the type of work required, including any designated subconsultants; and 40%
3. Ability to meet the advertised schedule. 20%

North Carolina firms qualified to do the required work will be given priority consideration. A North Carolina firm is a firm that maintains an office in North Carolina staffed with an adequate number of employees judged by the Department to be capable of performing a majority of the work required.

After reviewing qualifications, if firms are equal on the evaluation review, then those qualified firms with proposed SPSF participation will be given priority consideration.

## FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES MANAGEMENT UNIT LETTER OF INTEREST

All letters of interest are limited to fifteen (15) pages (RS-2 forms are not included in the page count) inclusive of the cover sheet, and shall be typed on 8 1/2" x 11" sheets, single spaced, one sided. **ONLY ELECTRONIC LETTERS OF INTEREST WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Letters of interest containing more than fifteen (15) pages will not be considered.

Letters of Interest should be submitted in .pdf format using software such as Adobe, CutePDF PDF Writer, DocuDesk deskPDF, etc.

One copy of the Letter of Interest should be sent through NCDOT's FTS system **as a .pdf file:** [psmu-411@ncdot.gov](mailto:psmu-411@ncdot.gov) . The FTS system will send you an electronic receipt when your LOI is downloaded to PSMU's server. **Paper copies are not required.** The subject line should contain the Firm's Name, and "LOI for A-0010".

If an interested firm does not have an FTS account they should send a request through e-mail to [psmu-411@ncdot.gov](mailto:psmu-411@ncdot.gov) . A response will be sent via the FTS system that will provide a login username, password, and login procedures.

## **Section I - Cover/Introductory Letter**

The introductory letter should be addressed to Mr. Scott D. Blevins, P.E., Manager of the Professional Services Management Unit. Said letter is limited to two (2) pages and should contain the following elements of information:

- Expression of firm's interest in the work;
- Statement of whether firm is on register;
- Date of most recent private engineering firm qualification;
- Statement regarding firms possible conflict of interest for the work; and
- Summation of information contained in the letter of interest **including an email address and telephone number for the firm's contact person.**

## **Section II - Evaluation Factors**

This section is limited to seven (7) pages and should contain information regarding evaluation and other factors listed in the advertisement such as:

- Identify personnel qualifications and experience as related to this work;
- Unique qualifications of key team members;
- Identify type and location of similar work performed within last seven (7) years;
- Understanding of approach;
- Any innovative approaches to be used;
- List all contracts, type of work, percentage complete, and outstanding balances with the NCDOT and NCTA;
- List any work being performed as a subconsultant on any NCDOT and NCTA. This work should be listed by TIP, prime consultant, type of work and outstanding balance;
- List any contracts that selections have been made, but not approved by the Secretary of Transportation; and
- List any upcoming work that may be a subsequent phase to an existing contract

**Note:** If a project team encounters personnel changes, or any other changes of significance dealing with the company, NCDOT should be notified immediately.

### Section III - Supportive Information

This section is limited to six (6) pages and should contain the following information:

- Capacity Chart/Graph (available work force);
- Organizational chart indicating personnel to be assigned by discipline;
- Resumes of key personnel;
- Names, classifications, and location of the firm's North Carolina employees and resources to be assigned to the advertised work; and
- Other information.

### APPENDICES-

#### CONSULTANT CERTIFICATION Form RS-2

**Completed Form RS-2 forms SHALL be submitted with the firm's letter of interest.**

This section is limited to the number of pages required to provide the requested information.

Submit Form RS-2 forms for the following:

- Prime Consultant firm (Prime Consultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/14/08), and;
- ANY/ALL subconsultant firms (Subconsultant Form RS-2 Rev 1/15/08) to be or anticipated to be utilized by your firm.

Complete and **sign** each Form RS-2 (instructions are listed on the form).

In the event the firm has no subconsultant, it is required that this be indicated on the Subconsultant Form RS-2 by entering the word "None" or the number "ZERO" and **signing** the form.

The required forms are available at:

<https://apps.dot.state.nc.us/quickfind/forms/Default.aspx>.

Advertised July 2, 2012(*REVISED July 10, 2012*)

Private consulting firms are invited to have letters of interest for furnishing services for project development services **FTS-ed** to the Professional Services Management Unit by **12:00 p.m.** on **July 24, 2012**. **Letters of interest received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Firms submitting letters of interest are encouraged to carefully check them for conformance to the requirements stated above. If letters of interest do not meet **ALL** of these requirements, or if they are sent by any means other than NCDOT's FTS system, or to any address other than [psmu-411@ncdot.gov](mailto:psmu-411@ncdot.gov) they will be disqualified. **No exception will be granted.**

Any questions concerning the advertisement or scope of work should be directed to Scott Blevins, PE, at [sblevins@ncdot.gov](mailto:sblevins@ncdot.gov) or by telephone at 919-707-7132.

If you feel information provided is inadequate to submit a letter of interest, please contact Mr. Blevins.

The firm(s) selected will be notified by **August 9, 2012**. Notification will not be sent to firms not selected.

The firm(s) selected will be listed on the Internet at [http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/eng\\_coord/selection\\_comm/current.html](http://www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/roadway/eng_coord/selection_comm/current.html) by **August 10, 2012**.